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Lyons running for re-election

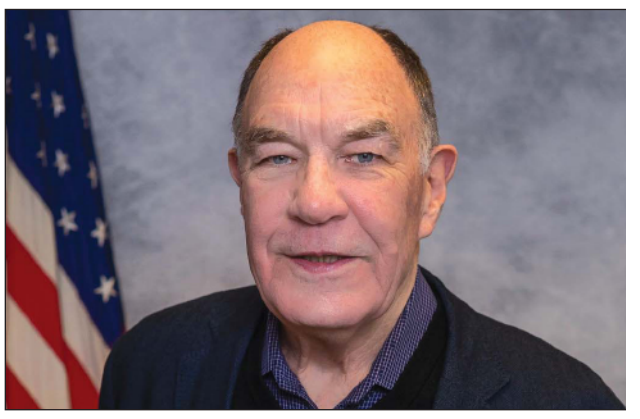
By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Dowagiac Mayor Don Lyons officially announced his intent to run for his eighth term last week.

In a June 12 press release, Lyons stated he will kick off his re-election campaign this Saturday at the Cass County PrideFest. Lyons was first elected mayor of Dowagiac in 1997, and has held the seat each election since.

"PrideFest, with its message of inclusivity and diversity, serves as the perfect platform to announce my candidacy for my 8th term as Mayor of Dowagiac," Lyons stated. "The challenges we all face in today's fast changing and confusing world will test its leadership as never before. I believe I am that experienced and proven leader who has continually demonstrated, not only my commitment to Dowagiac, but my ability to overcome those challenges and make Dowagiac a better place for everyone. I'm looking forward to four more years as your mayor."

For more information on the Lyons for Mayor Campaign, send an email to lyonsformayor2025@gmail.com.



Don Lyons

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

PALM bike tour to pedal through Dowagiac

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Hundreds of bicyclists will be pedaling through the Grand Old City as part of the annual Pedal Across Lower Michigan bike tour.

DOWAGIAC — A popular bicycle tour will be making a stop in Dowagiac Sunday.

Hundreds of bicyclists will be pedaling through the Grand Old City as part of the annual Pedal Across Lower Michigan bike tour.

PALM is a non-profit group dedicated to encouraging family bicycling and the promotion of bicycling safety. The annual bike tour takes participants on a trek across the lower peninsula from west to east, with a new route each year. Taking place from Saturday, June 21 to Friday, June 27,the tour includes the following sites:

Stevensville, Dowagiac, Sturgis, Coldwater, Addison, Dundee and Luna Pier. Cyclists will begin in Stevensville Saturday before making their way to Dowagiac Sunday morning. Participants camped on the Dowagiac Union High School grounds.

PALM site coordinators work with schools located in the tour sites to work out overnight camping locations and make sure to contact local businesses to let them know about the temporary influx of visitors into their communities.

PALM is open to all cyclists able to ride 30 to 60 miles per day for six days. While not a race, the tour focuses on the social and recreational aspects of everyday cycling. The PALM bike tour is always looking for volunteers. For more information, find PALM at palmbiketour.org.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

ROADRUNNERS RISING

SMC continues enrollment growth

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Following a public hearing on June 11, the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees unanimously adopted balanced 2025-26 fiscal-year budgets.

The $28.6 million general fund for July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026, anticipates $11.7 million from tuition and fees, $8.1 million from property taxes on 2.365 mills, $8.3 million in state appropriation and $500,000 from other revenue.

Interim President Brent Brewer reported that summer enrollment "well exceeded our goal of 580 students in head count with 622, and we exceeded our goal of 3,440 in contact hours with 3,671. Percentagewise, we're up 7.4 percent in head count and 6.3 percent in contact hours.

"This marks the highest summer enrollment headcount since 2017," Brewer continued. "Sixty percent of our students are taking online courses, with 68 percent of contact hours online. This compares to 56 percent of students and 62 percent of contact hours online last summer."

"SMC has always had balanced budgets and this budget will grow the college with allocations for additional student housing, the Charles O. Zollar Building expansion and future improvements to the Dale A.

See SMC, Page A6

Mayoral candidate Pat Bakeman to host Meet the Candidate Night

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Bakeman, a 1998 graduate of Dowagiac Union High School and owner of Bakeman Barbers, announced his candidacy in April in order to give someone from Ward One the opportunity to prepare to fill his seat on the City Council.

DOWAGIAC — After almost a decade as a Dowagiac councilman, Ward 1's Pat Bakeman is running to become the city's mayor.

Bakeman, a 1998 graduate of Dowagiac Union High School and owner of Bakeman Barbers, announced his candidacy in April in order to give someone from Ward One the opportunity to prepare to fill his seat on the City Council. He will be hosting a Meet the Candidate Night at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 9 at Venue 132,

See CANDIDATE, Page A8

Pat Bakerman

OBITUARIES

Hortense Edmondsen
Trisha Mrozek
Bonnie Tuyls
Johnathan Edward Wiseman
James Sheppard
Gary Evans McCormick
David Benton
Vernon Grinnell

A6

FRANKLY
TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"Thank you to the woman who jump-started my car at Martin's last week. You saved me."

A2

Annual Steve's Run returns to Dowagiac July 18 B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call or text Frankly at 219-455-2349 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

$45 million for a parade that no one went to. This hurts, especially after DOGE hacked a lot of jobs and said it was looking to trim wasteful spending.

It's ok to protest, but burning vehicles and throwing bottles at law enforcement is simply inexcusable and those people need to be arrested.

I'm thinking the protestors should have crawled in the windows at the Capitol building. Apparently that's perfectly acceptable.

I must say, I may be the only one who thinks the Hwy 12 and 51 intersection is far better than what it used to be. Just follow the signs and it's fine.

Flight Aviation should be included in high school electives. There is such a shortage of pilots and they get paid really well. Aircraft maintenance is also a fantastic career option.

Thank you to the woman who jump-started my car at Martin's last week. You saved me.

When will the world learn that war only causes pain? How can one or two leaders decide who lives and who dies with such horrible fighting? Why is it their choice?

The fighting has to stop. The US cannot get dragged into another conflict.

I understand the pain of deportation. I understand our immigration system is broken. But, we simply need to know who is in our country. I believe the deportations should continue, but I also believe there should be a legitimate path to citizenship that includes community service, taxation and a clean record while being a guest in our country.

Dowagiac PrideFest was a great reminder that no one should need to hide who they love, and they should feel as free to express that love as anyone else does.

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	30% Chance of Storms	50% Chance of Storms	60% Chance of Rain
90° 76°	93° 77°	95° 76°	95° 72°	91° 73°	90° 73°

HUNDREDS ATTEND CASS COUNTY PRIDEFEST

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Hundreds of people of all ages, genders and backgrounds descended on the Dowagiac Library Pavilion Saturday to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community at the second annual Cass County Pridefest.

Sponsored by dozens of

See PRIDEFEST, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

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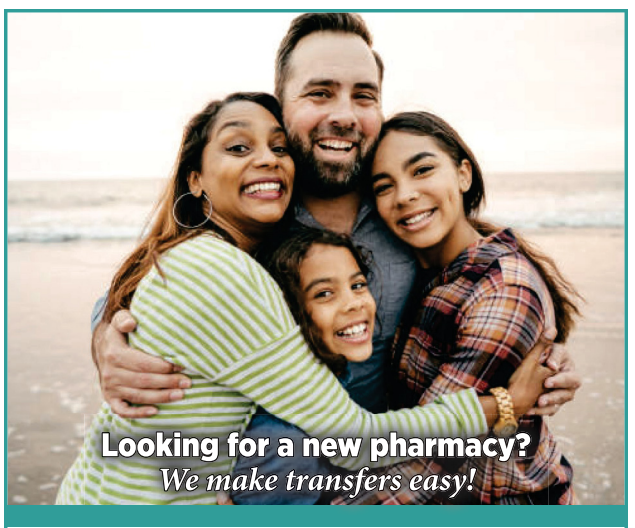

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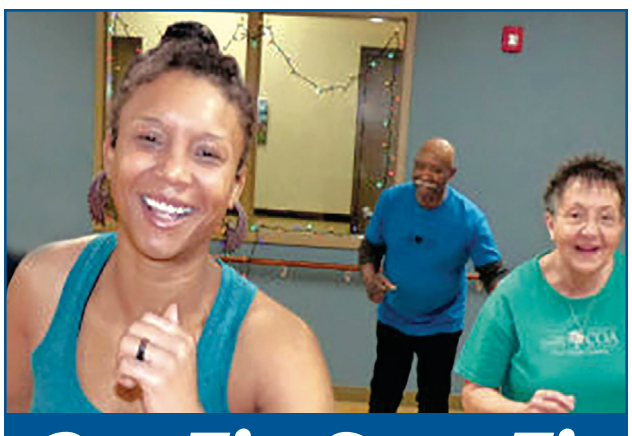

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Front Street Crossing
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Cass Family Clinic summer program providing paid job opportunities to local students

COMMUNITY REPORT

CASS COUNTY — Cass Family Clinic is giving nearly 30 high school students from southwest Michigan and northwest Indiana job opportunities this summer through its Summer Greeter Program.

This summer, 28 students from high schools in Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Berrien Springs, Buchanan, Edwardsburg, Niles, Brandywine, and St. Joseph in Michigan, as well as Marian High School in Mishawaka, Ind., are working at Cass Family Clinic's Cass and Niles locations. As part of a paid summer job program that runs through August, the students are welcoming and assisting visitors, distributing clinic merchandise, and shadowing staff. In addition, they will receive training in job interview skills, resume writing, and financial planning.

"These students are gaining valuable, first-hand insight into what it's like to work in the medical field," said Joe Gavan, CEO of Cass Family Clinic. "Our hope is that this experience at Cass Family Clinic will strengthen their communication and workplace skills, while helping them make more informed decisions about their future career paths."

The program's student greeters are assigned weekday shifts based on their availability. They

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Twenty-eight students from high schools in Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Berrien Springs, Buchanan, Edwardsburg, Niles, Brandywine, and St. Joseph in Michigan, as well as Marian High School in Mishawaka, Ind., are working at Cass Family Clinic's Cass and Niles locations this summer as part of its Summer Greeter Program.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Zabrina Shivers, a senior at Dowagiac High School, is among 28 students from high schools in Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Berrien Springs, Buchanan, Edwardsburg, Niles, Brandywine, and St. Joseph in Michigan, and Marian High School in Mishawaka, Ind., who will be working at Cass Family Clinic's Cass and Niles locations this summer as part of its Summer Greeter Program.

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Beckwith Theatre Company will hold auditions next month for its upcoming production of "Murdered to Death" by Peter Gordon.

Directed by Larry Nielsen, auditions will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 19; 4 p.m. Sunday, July 20; 7 p.m. Monday, July 21 at the Beckwith Theatre, 100 New York Ave, Dowagiac. Production dates are Sept. 26–28 and Oct. 3–5. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.

Play description:

"Murdered to Death" is a hilarious spoof of the best of Agatha Christie traditions. Set in a country manor house, an eclectic group of characters tries to determine who murdered the owner of the house. This is the first of Gordon's three Agatan Christie spoofs. All have been hits.

All the Christie characters are here, and they're all caught up in the side-splitting antics which follow the mysterious death of the owner of a country manor house. It soon becomes clear that the murderer is not yet finished, begging the question will the murderer he caught before everyone else has met their doom or will the audience die laughing first?

Roles to be auditioned include: The characters in Murdered to Death are all deliberately based upon

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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SMC Should Change Its Public Comment Policy

When I attend a meeting of the County Board of Commissioners, I can speak on agenda items at the start of the meeting and then again on non-agenda items at the end of the meeting. Likewise, the Dowagiac City Council allows for public comment on both agenda and non-agenda items. The same is true of school districts in the county. In none of these situations have I, or others I know, been required to submit our comments in writing the day before the meeting. Not so with the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees.

SMC's Board Policy states that anyone wishing to offer public comment on a non-agenda item must submit their comments in writing in advance to the board chair and secretary. One can only ask why? Since agendas are posted only a day or two prior to board meetings, and until recently, emails were not published for board members, I can only assume that the board does not really want to hear from members of the public.

It is especially curious since the board also has the practice of not responding to public comment and therefore doesn't need time to prepare a response. And surely the chair would not be censoring or disallowing a person to speak at a public board meeting?

Southwestern Michigan College's Board of Trustees needs to follow the letter and the spirit of the Open Meetings Act; SMC needs to get in sync with other community boards and allow for public comment on both agenda and non-agenda items—without prior approval or screening.

Naomi Ludman
Dowagiac

A Closer Look at Niles Township's Cannabis Controversy

For most of our lives, Niles Township has been a quiet, dependable place. Not flashy, not booming, but familiar. That's starting to change. In just a few months, long-standing businesses have announced their departures. New ones are appearing seemingly overnight. And for many residents, the question isn't whether change is coming, it's who's deciding what that change looks like.

Back in 2022, township voters rejected a proposal to allow adult-use cannabis establishments. Then, in November 2024, the issue returned to the ballot and barley passed. Out of more than 5,700 votes cast, just 245 tipped the scale. That kind of result calls for careful, transparent implementation. But what followed was anything but.

On April 21, 2025, the Township Board passed Zoning Ordinance 25-01, which opened the door to unlimited cannabis retailers on S 11th Street between State Line Road and Fulkerson Avenue. Within days, a resident filed a Notice of Intent to Petition, triggering an automatic legal suspension of the ordinance under Michigan law (MCL 125.3402). But even though the Township acknowledges that its cannabis zoning ordinance is not in effect and might not ever be in effect, the Township is accepting applications and intends to issue licenses.

The question is, "how can the Township have cannabis businesses without a cannabis zoning ordinance?" The answer is that the Township decided it would rely in its already existing retail use under its Zoning Ordinance. As a simple retail use, cannabis businesses can be located anywhere a retail business is located, without separation distances from schools and without the other regulations Zoning Ordinance 25-01. In other words, even if voters reject Ordinance 25-01, the Township will still approve cannabis facilities, just with fewer rules and less oversight.

That's not thoughtful planning. That's policy by loophole.

Zoning laws exist to ensure that development is deliberate, safe, and aligned with community needs. What's happening here circumvents those laws, and in doing so, undermines public trust. When residents see their Township pushing forward with a suspended ordinance and then pivoting to a workaround behind closed doors it's hard to believe their input was ever truly valued.

More than a thousand residents have signed petitions demanding that this decision be put to a public vote before our township is reshaped forever.

To date, we have not found a single township or city in Michigan, or anywhere in the country, that has tried to regulate cannabis businesses like nothing more than a simple retail use. If Niles Township continues down this path, it will be the first walking blindfolded into a legal and economic unknown.

This isn't about being anti-cannabis. It's about being pro-community. The future of our township should not be decided in closed-door meetings or buried in fine print. It should be shaped through dialogue, transparency, and the democratic process. If you believe the people of Niles Township deserve a real say in our future, now is the time to speak up. Join the effort to protect our local economy, preserve community space, and restore public trust.

Tim Mann
Niles

NEWS

Teen gets prison time for Dowagiac shooting

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — A Dowagiac teen is going to prison after shooting another person in the stomach last November. He was one of four people sentenced Friday in Cass County Circuit Court.

Haskins

Marcus Anthony Haskins, 18, of Orchard Street in Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and was sentenced to consecutive terms of four years to 10 years in prison on the assault charge and two years in prison on the felony firearm charge.

Haskins has credit for 203 days served and must pay a total of $1,326 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Nov. 22, 2024 in the area of West Telegraph and Orchard Streets in Dowagiac. Police responded to reports of a shooting and a young man with a gunshot wound to the stomach.

Assistant Prosecutor Jason Ronning echoed statements made by Haskin's juvenile probation officer. "She said he was a very likable kid who would continue to hang out with others who got in trouble," he said. "She said he always had an excuse and that whatever happened was someone else's fault."

"He says the same thing here, that he was with others and shots were fired," Ronning said. "A witness said the defendant chased him down the street waving a gun and that at least four shots were fired. The defendant ran home and hid the gun."

"This was not a situation where he encountered someone and there was a fight," he added. "He was looking for a person, he running around the streets looking for someone ... He was fortunate the victim wasn't killed. If he had died, there would be a clear case for premeditated murder and life without parole in prison."

Ronning said he wants to make sure the message gets out to other area youth. "I think this sends a message to kids in Dowagiac that we know who they are and what they are doing," he said. "Once you reach the age of 18, you're not going to be treated like a child."

Defense attorney Don Sappanos said his client wasn't passing the buck. He noted there had been a longstanding problem between Haskins and the victim and between their families. "Does that justify what he did? No, no," he said.

"What did happen that there was a group of boys in front of his mother's home and they called him out," Sappanos added. "He should have called the police and not confronted them himself. He was not driving around town looking for them and shooting them."

Haskins read a letter he had written the victim. The letter noted that he would take back his actions that day if he could. He apologized for his actions and said he didn't expect the victim to forgive him.

Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman told Haskins to use the experience to turn his life around. "You will be young when you get out," he said. "Don't sit around and stew about what happened. It takes a bigger man to do the right thing than the wrong thing."

"The reality is that what others think about you isn't important," he added. "I hope you realize that when you pull out a gun and shoot a person, you could spend the rest of your life in prison. At your age, that's a long time. When you're fooling around with guns and pull the trigger, you have realize the consequences including being six feet under."

"If you both don't put it behind you, someone is going to get killed," the judge said. "It will get to some point where you don't even know the reason why you're fighting. If you're not man enough to put this behind you, you will be in a courtroom again or a funeral home. That's just food for thought as you contemplate your life."

In other sentencings, two people were sentenced for possession of methamphetamine and a third was sentenced for drunk driving.

Moore

Melvin Lee Moore, 60, of Vandalia, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to 300 days in jail with credit for 58 days served and $698 in fines and costs.

He also pleaded guilty to violating his probation from a 2023 case and was sentenced to a concurrent 300 days in jail with credit for 210 days served. His probation was revoked.

The most recent incident occurred Sept. 26, 2024 in Cassopolis. Police investigated when Moore had a bonfire that was not allowed under the village ordinances. He then ran from police and started throwing items out of his pockets. A search of the discarded items found meth and cash.

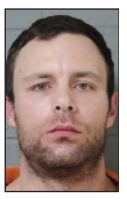
Moore had asked to withdraw his plea and proceed to trial. Judge Herman denied the motion, noting that Moore could easily face a prison sentence if convicted as a habitual offender.

Jonathon Taylor Pierson, 42, of Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to third offense drunk driving and was sentenced to three years probation, 30 days in jail with credit for five days served, $2,838 in fines and costs and $345 restitution.

Pierson

The rest of the jail term will be postponed to the end of probation and could be suspended if he is successful on probation. If his probation is successful, the charge will be reduced to a second offense drunk driving.

The incident occurred Feb. 28 on M-51 near Dowagiac. His blood alcohol level was .202, more than twice the legal limit. Police responded to reports of a single vehicle crash with a car in the creek. Pierson denied driving or crashing the car but his clothes were wet.


Skalla

William Thomas Skalla, 37, of Niles, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for 98 days served and $2,418 in fines and costs. The charge will be reduced to use of meth if he is successful on probation.

The incident occurred March 8 in Cassopolis. Police were called to residence on reports of someone trespassing. He was arrested for disorderly conduct and meth was found on him when he arrived at the jail. He also faces charges in Berrien County.

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COMICS & PUZZLES

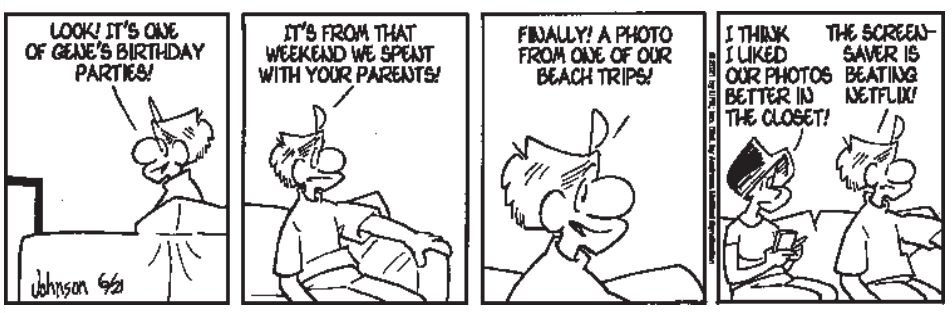
ADAM

MAN. DAD'S TYPING AWAY.
SURE IS.
TAP TAP
THAT "WRITER'S BLOCK ROAST" REALLY WORKS. WHAT'S IN IT?
TAP TAP TAP
IT'S JUST NORMAL COFFEE. I TOLD YOUR DAD IT HAD SOME SPECIAL INGREDIENTS.
LIKE WHAT?
DRAGON WINGS. HEMINGWAY'S BEARD TRIMMINGS. WHATEVER IT TOOK.

ALLEY OOP

WELL, I GUESS WE SOLVED THE TROLLEY PROBLEM.
I SUPPOSE, IN OUR OWN WAY, WE DID.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO BRANGDON, THE TROLLEY CONDUCTOR?
HIS BOSS SAID HE'D BE GIVEN THE HARSHEST PUNISHMENT THEY'VE EVER GIVEN: THREE DAYS OF PAID LEAVE.
NOT BAD.
AND HE CAN NO LONGER CONDUCT REAL-LIFE THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS.
NOT EVEN THE SHIP OF THESEUS? BUT HE PROMISED ME A NEW OLD NEW BOAT!

ARLO & JANIS


LOOK! IT'S ONE OF GENE'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES!
IT'S FROM THAT WEEKEND WE SPENT WITH YOUR PARENTS!
FINALLY! A PHOTO FROM ONE OF OUR BEACH TRIPS!
I THINK I LIKED OUR PHOTOS BETTER IN THE CLOSET!
THE SCREEN-SAVER IS BEATING NETFLIX!

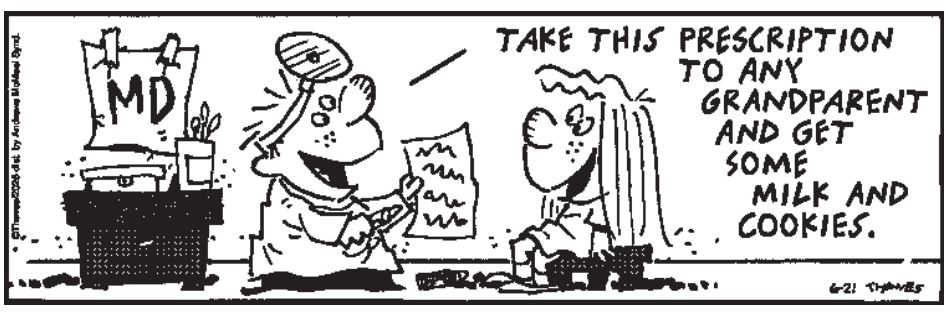
BIG NATE

HEAR ABOUT MY STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARD, RANDY?
SNORT! BIG DEAL!
THAT AWARD IS LIKE A PARTICIPATION TROPHY! EVERYBODY WINS IT EVENTUALLY!
EVEN NICK BLONSKY HAS WON IT!
OH, THE BRACING SLAP OF REALITY.
IT'S TRUE. I WAS FEBRUARY.

BORN LOSER

GRAMMIE SAYS SHE HAS TO GET HEARING AIDS, BECAUSE SHE'S HARD OF HEARING. ARE YOU HARD OF HEARING, UNCLE TED?
NO, BUT WHEN WE GET OLDER, WE ALL HAVE ISSUES, FOR EXAMPLE, I HAVE TO WEAR GLASSES.
OH, SO YOU'RE HARD OF SEEING!

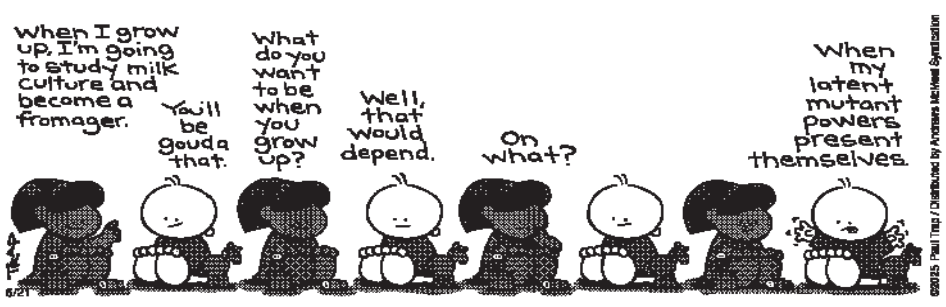
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS

GUNTHER, I'M SUSPENDING YOU TWO WEEKS WITH PAY FOR HARASSING TOURISTS
I'M REALLY SORRY TO HEAR THAT
IT'S A GOOD SIGN YOU FEEL THAT WAY
YEAH... I WAS HOPING FOR A MONTH
I HATE YOU!

THATABABY


When I grow up, I'm going to study milk culture and become a fromager.
You'll be gouda that.
What do you want to be when you grow up?
Well, that would depend.
On what?
When my latent mutant powers present themselves.

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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

4				2				1
				1		2	9	
	9		5	3			6	
		7	2					
		2		6		4		
					9	6		
	5			9	3		2	
	7	4		5				
8				7				5

MODERATELY CONFUSED

DO YOU THINK THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NEW YORK- & CHICAGO-STYLE WAFERS?
STAHLER 6/21
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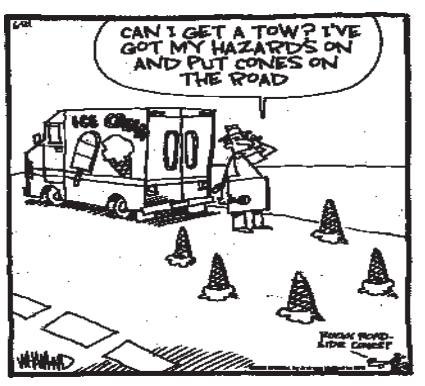
REALITY CHECK

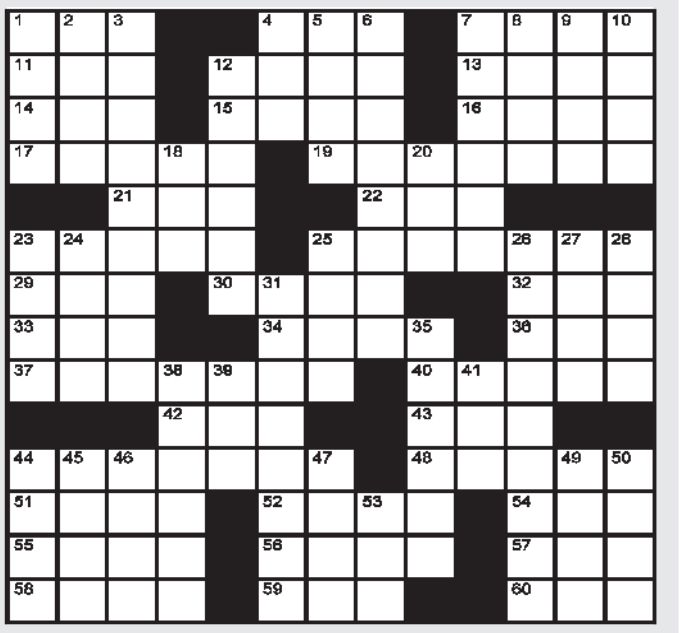


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 And so forth (Abbr.)
4 Cut a —
7 Open-handed hit
11 Shock partner
12 Courtroom fig.
13 Dunce cap shape
14 Masculine title
15 Back
16 Howard and Periman
17 Knock's answer
19 Environment
21 Rink surface
22 Flat cap
23 Yoga position
25 Minor role for an actor (2 wds.)
29 Down Under bird
30 Adolescent
32 Chinese chairman
33 — and abet
34 Pesters
36 Paid athlete
37 Exceptionally good
40 Brilliance
42 PIN prompter
43 Flower necklace
44 Anonymous man (2 wds.)
48 Clear a windshield
51 Eager
52 Change the decor
54 "— — little teapot ..."
55 Crafted
56 Grade sch.
57 H.S. subject
58 Winter fun item
59 Bad: Prefix
60 Bro's sibling

DOWN
1 Freedom from effort
2 Mattress size
3 Sureness
4 Road (Abbr.)
5 Beehive State
6 Moving spirally about an axis
7 — and save
8 Booty
9 Actress — Paquin
10 Bothersome one
12 Collar
18 Old European coin
20 Club
23 Grassy plains
24 Leave unmentioned
25 Grizzly —
26 Makes louder
27 — avis
28 Horn sound
31 In love
35 Rarely
38 Touched down
39 Inc., overseas
41 So-so grade
44 Crams
45 Ellipse
46 Put in a secret place
47 Wriggling
49 Old Dodge
50 Jokes
53 — Moines, Iowa

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



6-21

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BREVITY

HEART OF THE CITY

SHARI, YOU GOTTA COME WITH US TO FALLS BRIDGE TONIGHT. JENNY INVITED US. SHE'S THE GIRL I MET IN THE CEMETERY.
YOU DO ALL SORTS OF CREEPY THINGS THESE DAYS, HUH? I'M IN.
JENNY
MY FRIENDS AND I ARE GOING TO DO A NIGHT WALK ACROSS FALLS BRIDGE AT 9. SEE YOU THERE?
WE'LL BE THERE.

DEATH NOTICES

Hortense Edmondsen, 92, passed away on Thursday, June 12, 2025, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Trisha Mrozek, 55, Niles, passed away, Thursday, May 29, 2025. Service on June 27, 2025 at 5:00P.M., visitation an hour prior at Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Bonnie Tuyls, 90, Battle Creek, passed on Sunday, June 15, 2025. Services are Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 1:00P.M., visitation two hours prior at Calvary Apostolic Church-Battle Creek. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

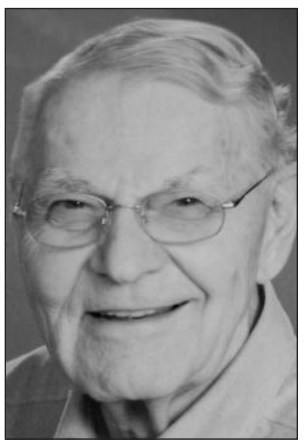
Johnathan Edward Wiseman, 54, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, June 14, 2025, in Saint Joseph, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

James Sheppard, 81, of Cassopolis, died Saturday, June 14, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

Gary Evans McCormick, 91, of St. Joseph, passed away Monday, June 16, 2025 at Caretel Inns. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home. Services on Friday June 20. www.AllredFuneralHome.com

David Benton, 73, of Eau Claire, passed away Saturday, June 14, 2025. A visitation will be held at Bowerman Funeral Home in Eau Claire Sunday June 29 from 10:00-1:00. www.BowermanFuneral.com

OBITUARIES



Vernon Grinnell

August 11, 1937
- June 15, 2025

Mr. Vernon Eugene Grinnell, Jr., age 87, of Calhoun, GA, passed away on Sunday, June 15, 2025.

Vernon was born in Chicago, IL, on August 11, 1937, son of the late Vernon E. Grinnell, Sr. and the late Bernice Frances Barzen Grinnell. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Dorothy Griffith Grinnell, brother, John A. Grinnell, and brother-in-law, Bill Griffith.

Vernon graduated Niles High School in Niles, MI in 1955 and was the president of both the band and orchestra his senior year. He went on to attend the University of Michigan from 1955-1960 and was a member of the marching band. One of his favorite experiences was when the marching band played Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D. minor on the football field to an audience of 100,000 and received a standing ovation. He later graduated in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering specializing in Metallurgy.

Vernon worked for National Standard Company for 43 years and retired in 2003. In the fall of 1961, he met Patricia Dorothy Griffith where she was also employed with National Standard Company. They had their first date on October 6, 1961, engaged on October 16, 1961, and married on December 16, 1961, in the First Presbyterian Church of Niles in Niles, Michigan. They were married for 60 years and 11 months.

Vernon became a member of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater, Oklahoma in 1975. He was baptized on October 5, 1997, at age 60. He then became a member of the Stillwater First Presbyterian Church in December 2005 where he became an ordained Deacon, Elder and a Liturgist. He enjoyed taking pictures of new members and making DVDs of various church activities

Survivors include four children: Susan Catherine Pizzarello (Tom) of Lexington, South Carolina, Sandra Alison Grinnell of Greenville, South Carolina, Scott Vernon Grinnell (Amber) of Crestview, Florida, and Shara Ann Hamilton (Larry) of Calhoun, Georgia. Grandchildren: Chase Grinnell, Trisha Hemenway, Amanda Hamilton, and Hunter Hamilton. Great-grandchildren: Maira and Mia Hemenway.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at 1:00pm at First Presbyterian Church, 829 Red Bud Road Calhoun, GA 30701.

Henderson & Sons Funeral Home, North Chapel, is honored to serve the family of Mr. Vernon Eugene Grinnell, Jr.

YMCA of Greater Michiana to host annual 5K/10K July 19

COMMUNITY REPORT

ST. JOSEPH — The YMCA of Greater Michiana invites runners, walkers, and families to join the 14th Annual Race for YMCA 5K/10K on Saturday, July 19 at 8:30 a.m., presented by Honor Credit Union.

Proceeds from the race will benefit the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA's annual campaign, which provides financial assistance for memberships and programs to local children and families in need.

Participants can choose between a 5K or 10K along a scenic course that starts and finishes at the Margaret B. Upton Arboretum, featuring views of the St. Joseph River, Silver Beach, and Lake Michigan shoreline. The event welcomes all fitness levels and is known for its community spirit and meaningful impact.

Virtual option available for added flexibility

New this year, the Y offers a virtual race option for participants who prefer to run on their own schedule and route. Those choosing the virtual experience can complete their 5K or 10K between July 19–27, submit their time online, and still receive a commemorative finisher medal. Virtual racers will also receive a printable bib and are encouraged to share photos and videos using #RaceForYMCA.

"Whether you join us downtown or complete your race virtually from wherever you are, every mile supports our mission to make sure no one is turned away from the YMCA," said Jill Haboush, Chief Development Officer, YMCA of Greater Michiana. "It's about community, movement, and making a real difference."

Participants of all fitness levels are welcome, from seasoned runners to casual walkers, and trophies will be awarded to the overall winners in the 10K run and 5K run, as well as medals given to the top three in each age group and children who finish the event.

For more information or to register, visit ymcagm.org/RaceYMCA.

Hundreds of people of all ages, genders and backgrounds descended on the Dowagiac Library Pavilion Saturday to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community at the second annual Cass County Pridefest.

PRIDE FEST

Continued from page A2

businesses and organizations including Corewell Health, Four Winds Casino, MonaCo Cleaning Services, Short n' Sweet Concessions, The Law Offices of Elizabeth McCree, Tower Hill Camp & Retreat Center, Twisted Bee and more, the family-friendly event featured a drag show, a costume contest, the presentation of the OutCenter's Community Leadership Award, sponsor, non-profit and artisan booths – including La Casa De Maria Cass County Democratic Party, Forever Linked Permanent Jewelry, Chosen Family of Michigan, Ben's Soft Pretzels and more – activities for children, food trucks, a DJ and live entertainment.

Trustees acknowledged 26 gifts to the SMC Foundation totaling $18,589.89, and the board accepted five donations directly to the college amounting to $8,350.

SMC

Continued from page A1

Lyons performing arts facilities," Board Chair Tom Jerdon added. "All the credit goes to the senior leadership team who have made this happen. The administration is really producing enrollment numbers once again, and their hard work will continue all summer long. It is truly amazing given the historical decline in high school graduates within the area and the state."

Trustees acknowledged 26 gifts to the SMC Foundation totaling $18,589.89, and the board accepted five donations directly to the college amounting to $8,350.

The board also reiterated that as Southwestern Michigan College begins searching for its ninth president, the community is invited to participate in this important process. Community members are asked to attend a work session at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, at Mathews Conference Center West in Fred Mathews Library, 58900 Cherry Grove Road, Dowagiac. College trustees are asking citizens to share their thoughts on the qualities, priorities and vision essential for SMC's next president. Those unable to attend or who wish to provide additional feedback may submit input online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QDM7JC8.

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

E	T	C			R	U	G		S	L	A	P
A	W	E		A	T	T	Y		C	O	N	E
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S	L	E	D		D	Y	S			S	I	S

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

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9	3	2	7	6	1	4	5	8
5	1	8	3	4	9	6	7	2
1	5	6	4	9	3	8	2	7
3	7	4	8	5	2	9	1	6
8	2	9	1	7	6	3	4	5

164 attend SMC's STEM Camp

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

DOWAGIAC — Whether you're landing rovers on Mars, coding with artificial intelligence (AI), populating Abigail Craft's math-based zoo to learn fractions or testing pH levels, hands-on activities help develop problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaborative teamwork.

Southwestern Michigan College's seventh STEM Camp was held in the William P.D. O'Leary Building on the Dowagiac campus June 16-18 for 164 Michiana students entering grades 4-6 this fall.

Math and Physics Professor Andrew Dohm, a mechanical engineer turned teacher 25 years ago, writes the grants that the Bosch Community Fund awards to underwrite summer camps that are free to all participants.

"Our group this year was over 50 percent girls," Dohm said, "which is the first time that has happened." School districts represented include Edwardsburg, Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Marcellus, Decatur, Niles, Brandywine, Hartford, Mattawan, Berrien Springs, Coloma, Watervliet, Buchanan, Lakeshore, Eau Claire, Lawton, Paw Paw, Three Rivers and homeschooled students.

Each workshop explored a STEM letter — science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Science led off with pH, the scale that measures how acidic or basic (alkaline) a substance is, ranging from 0 to 14. A pH of 7 is neutral, such as water. Values below 7 are acidic, such as lemon juice. Values above 7 are basic or alkaline. Bubbling, foaming and temperature and color changes signal reactions taking place.

Students used litmus to test whether a solution is acidic or basic. Blue litmus paper turns red under acidic conditions, and red litmus paper turns blue under basic or alkaline conditions.

Edwardsburg eighth-grade computer science teacher Deb Kraska, also finishing her 25th year in the classroom, including 20 with second and third graders, led coding on laptops. "One of my favorite things about coding is it allows you to be creative," she said.

Their programming introduction took them to code.org, joining 99 million students in all 50 states — 42 million of them young women.

Assisting Kraska were Cashton and Tallula Kimmey of the robotics team Ting Tang Walla Walla Bing Bang of RoboTZ (Robo-Tech Zone), which trains at SMC's Niles campus. They competed in May in the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas, Texas.

Edwardsburg Middle School science teacher Nichole Dohm conducted the engineering challenge to design, build and test a rover after watching a NASA video about Perseverance, a car-sized rover that explored Jezero Crater on Mars.

Its primary goal is to search for signs of ancient microbial life and collect samples of Martian rocks. Launched on July 30, 2020, it successfully landed on Mars on Feb. 18, 2021.

"We're going to be using the engineering process," she said. "Identify the problem, what is the challenge, what are the limits, such as time, how can we solve it? Our challenge is to safely land our rover. We want you to collaborate with your partners."

Dohm distributed their materials: a cup for a space capsule, two marshmallows for astronauts, eight straws, a piece of cardboard, note cards, three rubber bands, tape and 10 mini-marshmallows as a shock-absorbing cushion for the landing. Landers were dropped from a meter, modified with a parachute, then released again from the ceiling.

Craft, adjunct SMC faculty, directed students to brainstorm large (5x5), medium (3x3) and small animals (1x1) to stock a zoo, then calculate the necessary dimensions of a variety of "enrichments" — trees, rocks, ponds, shelters, shrubs, plants and flowers.

Niles man sentenced to prison

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — A Niles man is going back to prison after being sentenced Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Dustin Michael Dokey, 38, of Niles, pleaded guilty to possession of a weapon by a prohibited person and was sentenced to 14 months to five years in prison with credit for two days served. He must forfeit the weapon and pay $198 in fines and costs. The sentence will be consecutive to any parole violation sentence.

Dokey

He also pleaded guilty to illegal entry and attempted resisting and obstructing police and was given sentences of credit for two days served and $250 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred March 4 in Berrien Township.

Dokey was released on parole Sept. 24, 2024 from 2023 sentences for possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of methamphetamine. He also had a 2019 sentence for third degree fleeing and eluding and a 2017 sentence for attempted assault by strangulation or suffocation.

Dokey's attorney said that while he has always been polite and well spoken with her, he appears to have problems with impulse control.

"I don't think he has malice in his heart," she said. "He was fooled by his companions that this was an abandoned house."

She noted that Dokey was found hiding under some clothes when police arrived and they then found a gun under the seat of his car.

Dokey apologized for his actions.

"I'm sorry for what happened," he said. "I'm trying to move on with my life."

In other sentencings, area residents were sentenced for drug, weapon and theft offenses.

Jaylin Marquis Moss, 19, of South Bend, pleaded guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to two years probation under the Holmes Youthful Training Act, credit for 45 days served and $598 in fines and costs. If he is successful on probation, he can keep the charge off his record.

Moss

The incident occurred Jan. 27 in Niles Township.

Defense attorney Jason Engram said that Moss had only one juvenile adjudication before this incident. "He is a good candidate for HYTA, he's been in jail for 45 days and has not enjoyed it," he said.

Moss apologized to the court for wasting everyone's time.

Donald Wayne Reed, 61, of Niles, pleaded guilty to use of a financial transaction device and was sentenced to credit for four days served and $198 in fines and costs. Restitution will be determined at a July 24 hearing.

Reed

The incident occurred Feb. 28 in Niles Township. A companion charge of larceny in a building was dismissed.

Defense attorney Dan French argued unsuccessfully to allow Reed to withdraw his plea. French said that Reed didn't realize that the restitution of $27,000 was being requested. He added that his client is in poor health.

Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein said French had not shown good cause to withdraw the plea and that Reed had agreed to pay restitution.

Jacob Michael Winings, 26, of Edwardsburg, pleaded guilty to possession of a loaded firearm and was sentenced to $218 in fines and costs and 40 hours of community service.

The incident occurred April 9 in Niles Township.

Winings called his actions a "big dumb childish mistake" that he should never had done. He noted that he lost his job as a welder because of the incident.

Evan Michael Zacharski, 29, of Niles, pleaded guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to 18 months probation, credit for two days served, weapon forfeited and $658 in fines and costs. He also was sentenced to credit for two days served and $50 for use of meth.

Zacharski

The incident occurred April 16 in Niles.

French said that Zacharski carried a weapon for self defense. He added that his client had lived in Indiana previously and didn't understand the different laws in the two states relative to firearms.

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Bill
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3/21/84 Loss of Words, 3/26/85 From Friday Night
Partners to Every Night Partners.
Love,
The Cookie Lady
P.S. If you've ever been in love, you know what these words mean.

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One injured in Penn Township crash

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

The investigation showed that Goshen, Ind. resident Alisha Kindy, 35, was traveling northbound on Shattuck Road. Kindy lost control of the vehicle traveling off the roadway to the right and striking a tree.

PENN TOWNSHIP — A Goshen, Indiana woman was injured Tuesday morning in a single-vehicle Penn Township crash, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

At approximately 4:30 a.m. Tuesday, Cass County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a single-vehicle crash on Shattuck Road, south of Quaker Street in Penn Township.

The investigation showed that Goshen, Ind. resident Alisha Kindy, 35, was traveling northbound on Shattuck Road. Kindy lost control of the vehicle traveling off the roadway to the right and striking a tree. The vehicle continued to travel back onto the roadway before leaving the roadway to the left and becoming stuck in a field. Kindy was ejected from the vehicle, after it struck the first tree. Kindy was transported by SMCAS Ambulance to Elkhart General Hospital for injuries sustained in the traffic crash.

Kindy was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. Alcohol and Drugs may have been a factor in the crash. The crash remains under investigation.

Assisting agencies on scene were SMCAS Ambulance, Penn Township Fire Department, and Central Cass Fire Department.

BECKWITH

Continued from page A1

"whodumit" stereotypes. Ages are for guidance only and can be varied, provided that the overall balance is maintained.

Mildred, the moderately wealthy owner of the Bagshot House. Written to be in her late fifties. Dorothy, the rather plain niece who would inherit Bagshot House. Dorthy is also the companion and housekeeper to Mildred. Written to be in her late twenties

Bunting, the pedantic Butler, somewhat creepy as if lost in his own world. Appears at times like a ghost. Written to be in his sixties.

Colonel Charles Craddock has the stiffest of stiff upper lips and posture. A confidant and blustery Colonel in tweed. A philanderer in the past and present. Written to be in his sixties.

Margaret Craddock, the long suffering but acerbic wife of the Colonel who knows what she knows. Written to be slightly younger than her husband.

Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington, the stunningly attractive, well-dressed, and very high-society socialite. Written to be in her mid-twenties

Pierre Marceau, a shady French art dealer, caught recently defrauding Mildred. Has an exaggerated French accent. Perhaps mustachioed as Hercule Poirot. Written to be in his

Mildred, the moderately wealthy owner of the Bagshot House. Written to be in her late fifties. Dorothy, the rather plain niece who would inherit Bagshot House. Dorthy is also the companion and housekeeper to Mildred. Written to be in her late twenties

carly thirties.

Joan Maple, (The parody of Agatha Christie's Miss Marple) Gossipy older woman with a knack for solving crimes. Underestimated by others who think Miss Maple is too confused to solve crimes. A nosy busybody of a neighbor, sleuth wannabe who murder follows. Maple is quirky and naive yet astute. Written to be in her sixties.

Constable Thompkins, a bright, village policeman or policewoman, precise, calm, and logical demeanor in comedic contrast to Pratt. Written without age.

Inspector Pratt, over-the-top itt demeanor and incompetent in ability but lacking any self-awareness and humility. Inept, posing, and clumsy Inspector. The type of person once met is never forgotten. He's armed and a menace to all. More Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau while trying to be Hercule Poirot. Written without age.

CLINIC

Continued from page A1

will have at least one job shadowing opportunity with a staff member in their field of interest.

Josue Gonzalez, a senior at Niles High School interested in pursuing radiology or MRI as a career path, is looking forward to gaining exposure in the healthcare field while participating in the program.

"I'm excited about getting work experience, building my resume, and hopefully getting closer to the path I want to take after graduating," Gonzalez said. "The Summer Greeter program at Cass Family Clinic gives me the opportunity to observe potential future jobs and learn what it's like working in healthcare."

During their shifts, students will be stationed at the entry of Cass and Niles clinics, aiding patients and welcoming them into the facilities. Additionally, they will assist patients with wheelchairs, umbrella escorts (in the event of rain), and directional information, among other support services.

"The Greeter Program gives students a unique opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the day-to-day operations at Cass Family Clinic," said Gavan. "Now in its second year, the program is designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of the healthcare field. By August, we hope they leave with a clearer view of the industry and feel inspired to consider a future career in healthcare."

CANDIDATE

Continued from page A1

132 Front St. The event will be an opportunity to meet Bakeman, hear his vision for the future of the city and ask questions.

"As a proud resident of Dowagiac, I take great pride in our community and in working toward a better future—for my family and for all the families who call this area home," Bakeman said. "Change is inevitable, and I believe our community is ready for it."

The husband and father of three is one of the founders of Dowagiac Connected (Formerly known as The Young Professionals of Greater Dowagiac), a member of the Dowagiac Lions and has been doing play-by-play commentary for Dowagiac Chieftain football games for the local radio station since 2006.

Bakeman was elected to the city council in 2017 after being approached by several people asking him to consider getting involved with the city's leadership. He served on the Economic and Development Board from 2017-21 and is a member of the Planning Commission and Russom Park Board.

"My family and I have always been committed to improving our city and creating opportunities for everyone, because this is our home—and we believe in the strength and potential of Dowagiac," Bakeman said. "Ultimately, this decision came down to timing: for me, for my family, and for what I believe is the right moment for our city."

With more than 20 years of business experience in downtown Dowagiac and eight years on council, Bakeman believes he is the best candidate to serve the city into the next chapter.

"My deep roots in this community and my ongoing commitment to its growth have prepared me to lead with both vision and practicality," he said. "I'm excited to campaign throughout the summer and share my ideas for a stronger, vibrant future for us all."

Bakeman said serving on city council has strengthened his commitment to the community and has given him the opportunity to help people throughout the city.

"It's also helped me gain a deeper understanding of the processes and procedures of our local government," he said. "My time on council has been personally rewarding and I believe I've served Ward 1 and the entire city well… This experience has provided me with a deep understanding of both our local government and the needs of our residents. As a youth sports coach, I've had the opportunity to connect with parents, grandparents, and our young athletes, gaining valuable insight into both their appreciation and concerns.

"I am committed to leading with the same passion and dedication that has guided my service and I look forward to continuing to make our community a better place to live, work and play."

Bakeman's family has called Dowagiac home for generations. He said he is committed to working hard to make it a community where residents feel proud to raise their families.

"Dowagiac is a special place because of its people and the strong relationships we've built within our community," he said. "Time and time again, this city has shown its true spirit by lifting each other up and stepping in to help whenever there's a need. It's that unwavering sense of togetherness that makes Dowagiac feel like home."

What I've done.

-1999 Lansing Barber College Graduate

-Married my wife Ravan Bakeman in 2004 and together we have 3 children, Amelia, Mallory and John

-2005 my wife and I purchased Bakeman Barbers

-2006 became the Voice of Dowagiac Chieftain football and now stream games on The Dowagiac Chieftains Network under Joe Jason Media LLC.

-Member of Holy Maternity of Mary and the Lions Club

-2014 was part of the founding group of Dowagiac Connected formally known as the Young Professionals of Greater Dowagiac

-2014 Started donating time to coaching youth sports.

-2017 was elected to Ward 1 City Council.

1. Boards

i. Economic and Development 2017-21

ii. Planning Commission 2023-present

iii. Russom Park Board 2024-present

-2018 named to the inaugural

Moody on the Market 40 under 40 in Southwestern Michigan.

-2020 joined the State of Michigan Safe Start work group to help re- engage licensed Barbers and Cosmetologists during COVID 19

-2020 joined and became a board member to help establish the Michigan Association of Beauty Professionals(MABP) as a 501c3

-2021 Testified to Michigan Senate on behalf of barbers.

-2022 Chamber of Commerce Shinning Star award winner

Dowagiac Daily News
Sports

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max.harden@leaderpub.com

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BASKETBALL

Dowagiac grads ready to lead hoops programs

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

DOWAGIAC — Dowagiac Union High School did not have to go far when looking to find its next varsity basketball coaches.

Craig Schau and Eric Charles were already a part of the Chieftains' coaching staff.

Schau, last year's varsity girls' coach, was recently hired to take over as Dowagiac's head varsity boys' mentor replacing Danum Hunt, who stepped down after 16 seasons leading the Chieftains' hardcourt fortunes.

Dowagiac finished the 2024-25 girls' basketball season 5-17 in Schau's one season leading the program, including a narrow 47-43 loss in the Division 2 district quarterfinals to Niles.

"It was a very difficult decision to leave the girls' program and it's something I wrestled with before making my decision to apply for the boys' job," said Schau, a 2001 Dowagiac graduate and former college player.

Schau inherits a Dowagiac boys' program that finished just 1-20 with six seniors, but the Chieftains will return a good group of promising underclassmen.

"I'm very excited to get going with this group of kids. I've worked with a few of these boys coming up through the program and I've built a relationship with them. It's been a goal of mine to become a boys' varsity coach so I decided to put in my application when the job became available," Schau said. He and his wife have five children in the Dowagiac school district.

With summer vacation now underway, Schau has been able to get into the gym with his team and start laying a foundation with workouts and weight lifting.

"Our focus right now is to build relationships with the kids and a strong culture. We want kids that want to play hard and I am going to focus on playing

See HOOPS, Page B2

Craig Schau

TENNIS

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Brandywine girls tennis earns Academic All-State

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Once again, the Brandywine girls tennis team has earned Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association Division 4 Academic All-State honors.

To earn this distinction, the team must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 and this year's team had a program best GPA of 3.87. Six Bobcat student-athletes had perfect 4.0 GPA's: Ireland Prenkert, Sydney Olson, Aubree Murray, Alexandra Curtis-Lee, Chelsy Olson, and Alison Murray.

"Myself, Coach Robbins, and Assistant Coach Caitlin Stanner are very proud of their efforts on and off the courts as they were a great group to work with all season," said Brandywine Coach Joe Marazita.

BASKETBALL

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Brandywine football coach Jeff Miller.

Ready to build

New head coach Jeff Miller ready to lead Brandywine football

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — Jeff Miller had been patiently waiting for the right opportunity to join the head coaching ranks following a 20-year run as an assistant in Elkhart.

The opportunity was realized this spring when he was named head coach of the Brandywine football team. Miller succeeds Justin Kinzie, who was 9-22 in three seasons as head coach. Brandywine has not won more than four games since 2019, when the Bobcats finished 9-1, including the school's first undefeated regular season.

"You can tell that (the players) are ready," he said. "They just want to win, they want to be successful and we want to do that

See COACH, Page B2

ANNUAL

STEVE'S RUN RETURNS TO DOWAGIAC JULY 18

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — The 51st running of the Original Road and Trail Race takes place at 6p.m. Friday, July 18 in downtown Dowagiac, in conjunction with the Summer Festival and BBQ Competition.

"We're excited to return to downtown Dowagiac to help kick off the Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce's Summer Festival and BBQ Competition. Registration will return to the train depot again this year. Our goal is to bring together 350 participants — and, of course, that means many more family and friends will be there cheering them on. We also have a group of cross country alumni who will gather to walk in Steve's honor, and, thanks to Steve's sister, Carrie, we're excited to bring back the Fire Up signs — a wonderful way to celebrate and remember those we're running and walking for," said Emily Schrock, Manager of Development and Executive Director of the SMC Foundation Board.

"We're truly grateful for all of our participants and donors who come together to raise funds for both cancer research and the David and Steven Briegel Memorial Scholarship. We're proud to have Cass Family Clinic as our presenting sponsor this year, alongside valued partners like Cairn Stone Adventure Tours, our bib sponsor, and many other generous supporters who help make this event possible," Schrock said.

"The Cass Family Clinic is proud to be a part of this inspirational event that brings the community together and contributes to the fight against cancer," Cass Family Clinics CEO Joseph Gavan said.

Known as Steve's Run since 1992, the event has raised more than $180,000 for cancer research and scholarships.

Steve's Run left downtown in 2015 for Southwestern Michigan College's campus, where it began in front of the David C. Briegel Building, named for SMC's fifth president from 1981-98.

David's and Camille's son, Steven Briegel, was born July 21, 1967, and died March 1, 1990, at age 22 after a 5 ½-year battle with cancer. He graduated fifth in Union High School's Class of 1986 and played basketball, golf and in band for the Chieftains.

He graduated with an associate degree in mathematics with honors from SMC in 1988 and was a junior in the Ferris State University program at SMC at the time of his death.

He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

After Steve's death, SMC's annual Road and Trail Race became Steve's Run, dedicated to all who have fought or are still fighting cancer, with proceeds split between Mayo Clinic cancer research and the Briegel scholarship. President Briegel died Jan. 13, 2021.

"I wanted to do something to honor Steve," founder Ron Gunn said. "We had a run around Edwardsburg's Eagle Lake in his honor" on July 31, 1991. On Aug. 1, 1992, Steve's Run embraced Dowagiac.

As SMC dean of sports education, Gunn organized races throughout the 1970s-'80s through Roadrunner Track Club. "The first few years it was called the Road and Trail Race, the Bud Lite Run and the Nike-Fair Store Run," he said.

A magazine named Steve's

See RUN, Page B2

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Stroller Dad

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

tough defense, building our basketball IQ and strengthening fundamentals. Offensively we will play a style that fits our personnel," Schau said.

Brent Nate, Dowagiac's athletic director, is pleased to still have Schau as a member of the coaching staff.

"It was a tough decision for Craig to take the boys' position because he felt so much loyalty to the girls' program. As the process unfolded though, his strong connections with the players coming up in our boys' program made him a strong choice," Nate said.

Meanwhile, Charles, a 2012 Dowagiac graduate and former football and basketball player himself for the Chieftains, takes the helm of the Lady Chieftains' basketball fortunes following a five-year stint as junior varsity boys coach at Dowagiac.

"I have a real passion for coaching youth and for Dowagiac Athletics. I like having the opportunity to be involved in the community working with young people," said Charles, who will inherit an experienced team in the 2025-26 season.

Dowagiac's girls graduated just one senior and will return nine players. The Lady Chieftains' roster will be dominated by juniors and seniors this coming season.

"I want to run a fast-paced game, apply a lot of full-court pressure and employ man-to-man defense as well. We will be a gritty team. I'm looking forward to turning Dowagiac into a basketball school. We want the girls coming through to have as much love for basketball as they do other sports," Charles said.

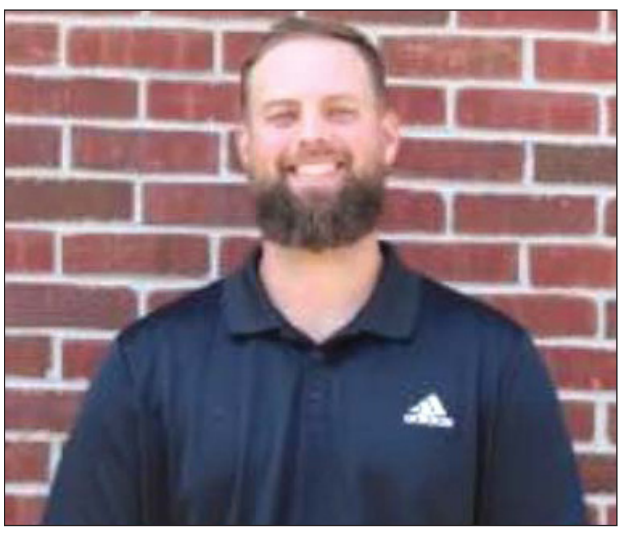
Dowagiac officially hired Charles for the position on June 11 and he was able to get into the gym earlier this week to start working with his squad. The Lady Chieftains have summer scrimmages set up with Niles and Lawton.

"I'm excited to get started and we are very enthusiastic with this group. These girls work extremely hard and when you do that good things happen," Charles said.

Charles and his wife Dominique, also a Dowagiac graduate who sits on the school board, have two boys that are eight and two years old.

Nate is equally excited to have Charles leading Dowagiac's girls' basketball program.

"With Eric we are not only getting someone dedicated to basketball, but someone who is more than just an in-season coach. Often you will see Eric at other school events watching his players compete in volleyball, basketball, softball or track and field meets. Our coaches make a good effort to be involved with the other sports as well. That's the culture we are projecting here at Dowagiac," Nate said.



Charles

Schau

2025-26 MHSAA Officials Registration Underway

Courtesy of MHSAA

LANSING — The Michigan High School Athletic Association is accepting registrations online or by mail for game officials for the 2025-26 school year.

The MHSAA registered 8,891 officials for the 2024-25 school year, another of a recent series of increases as registrations continue to trend back to pre-COVID totals.

All officials who register may sign up for up to two sports as part of their registration. Officials also will receive membership in the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO), which comes with a variety of educational and training resources and the NASO's Shield liability insurance that will provide $6 million in coverage for officials while they are working both MHSAA and non-MHSAA events.

For new and returning officials, a $70 fee covers registration for up to two sports. Officials may register for additional sports at $16 per sport.

To avoid a $30 late fee, all fall sport registration applications must be received by Aug. 18, 2024. Winter sports registrations must be received by Nov. 17 to avoid the late fee, and spring sports registrations must be received by March 25, 2026.

Online registration can be accessed on the "Officials" page. More information about official registration may be obtained by contacting the MHSAA by phone at (517) 332-5046 or by e-mail at register@mhsaa.com.

There is an officials' registration test for first-time officials, derived from the MHSAA Officials Guidebook. New officials and those who didn't officiate during 2024-25 also must complete the online MHSAA Principles of Officiating course. Additional exams must be taken by those registering for football or basketball for the first time or those who were not registered for those sports during the previous school year. Links to the Officials Guidebook, Principles of Officiating presentation and the football and basketball mechanics manuals can be found by following the "New Officials" link on the Officials page of the MHSAA Website.

There also are opportunities to officiate for students at least 14 years old and in grades 9-12 through the MHSAA Legacy Program. Juniors and seniors may officiate subvarsity contests, while freshmen and sophomores may officiate contests at the middle school/junior high levels. Mentor officials will work events with Legacy participants to provide guidance and support. Find information on the Legacy Program by clicking "Officials Registration" on the Officials page of the MHSAA Website and reading under "Student Legacy Program Requirements."

RUN

Continued from page B1

Run one of the 10 best vacation runs in the country for its unique combination of highways, the Elks golf course and the college's rugged trails with hay bales and log obstacles.

Monday Night Running Club, founded in 1979, activated countless sedentary community members.

SMC has continued to host Steve's Run with the support of the City of Dowagiac and through generous donations from community partners. After a virtual event in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the race moved back into town in 2021.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

DUHS Student Advocate Susan Baldwin.

Cass Family Clinic, an independent Federally Qualified Health Center serving southwest Michigan, operates in Cassopolis and Niles. A third location, at 57392 M-51 South, Dowagiac, opens late summer, featuring primary medical care and a full-service pharmacy, including a drive-through. The clinic expects to serve an estimated 2,400 patients and employ about 15.

Sign up for Steve's Run today at runsignup.com/stevesrun.

COACH

Continued from page B1

with them. We want to do that for them. I've been really encouraged. We've had more kids every single day. Whoever's there, we're going to coach them up and give them everything that we've got because that's the only thing we ask them to do. If we worry about that in everything we do, eventually all of the winning and all that stuff's going to take care of itself.

"We're not going to chase outcomes, we're not going to chase wins. We're going to worry about how we approach everything and eventually those outcomes will be where we want because that's sustainability. That's building a program from the bottom up and that's what we have to do."

Miller graduated from Elkhart Central, where he played for Indiana Football Hall of Famer Tom Kurth. From there, he went to Indiana University to pursue a teaching degree while helping coach the football team.

"(Teaching) is the perfect job for me," he said. "They say if you love what you're doing, you're never gonna work."

Miller returned to Elkhart in 2005, where he spent the past 20 years as both a teacher and an assistant coach at Elkhart Memorial.

The size of the two schools may be different – Miller said Memorial's Class of 2025 had 850 students – but even so, he feels the two schools are still similar in their diversity.

"It's very similar to Elkhart in the respect that there's a mix of different kinds of people here, there's just less of them here," he said. "We have some farm-type kids, we have athletes and kids from all sorts of backgrounds, just less of them. It wasn't a culture shock."

When the Brandywine position opened up, Miller consulted his "circle," which consists of 32 football and track coaches he has built relationships with over the years and made the decision to lead the Bobcats on the gridiron.

"I feel more prepared than most because I've been coaching officially for 20 years and even longer with helping at IU," he said. "I've taken a lot from people I've worked with and I'm excited to be at a place that wants to win and is excited about football. I'm applying all of those lessons and learning more and seeing what works."

Miller has received support from coaches all over Michiana. Niles Head Coach Scot Shaw, who Miller worked for when Shaw helmed Elkhart Memorial from 2015 to 2019, has been an invaluable resource for him.

"The coaches network has been welcoming, open and supportive," he said. "People are willing to have a phone conversation for two hours or just talk ball if they have nothing to do. So just talking to him about what the Niles area is like and everybody in southern Michigan who I know says ' I think (Brandywine) can win there, they've won there before. I just think it's a really good situation."

Embracing Bobcat Nation

It did not take Miller very long to understand and appreciate the district's importance to the community. He praised the Brandywine community for its support of the football program.

"It's such a cool setup, you come off Bell and the road just dead ends right into the school," Miller said. "Because this is a township and not the city, the school is really the center of the community, which is really cool… From the superintendent to the principal, AD and other coaches, everybody is swimming in the same direction. There just seems to be a lot of support for the kids and the programs and that's exciting."

'Happy, healthy, high-performance'

Miller is tasked with rebuilding the Bobcats football program from the ground up and summed up his program philosophy as "Happy, healthy and high-performance."

"For our coaches, for our kids and for everybody who's in our program, we're trying to develop happy, healthy, high-performance student athletes who grow up to become lifelong community leaders. That's our mission," he said. "I think that happy, healthy, high-performance covers everything. We want to develop kids and teach them how to be happy and how to work through those mental spaces when they're not happy. You're going to have periods where there are peaks and valleys but the valleys aren't going to last and we have to teach them how to get out of those."

Miller said that his program will put an emphasis on speed training in order to cultivate healthy athletes on the gridiron.

"We're a sprint-based football program," he said. "We're not into 1980s traditional conditioning. We are focused on speed because speed is the tide that lifts all boats; speed stacked on top of speed can build speed endurance. Endurance will never build speed. If you think of a distance runner and what they look like when they're running versus a sprinter, a sprinter has big front side mechanics and small backside mechanics. Distance Runners are the opposite, so we're trying to build sprinters, not guys who are really good at running half speed."

When it comes to the high performance aspect of the program, Miller expects players to be the best versions of themselves as they represent Brandywine both on and off the field.

"High performance is everywhere. In the classroom, as a son, as a sibling, as an employee, as a player, as a leader in the school," he said. "One thing I want kids to understand is that you don't have to be here, you're choosing to be here. Because you're choosing to be and part of probably the most visible sport, you're a leader, whether you like it or not. With all the spoils also comes responsibility. So that's our mission for our program. It's happy, healthy and high performance for everybody."

'Let them play football'

When it comes to what the Bobcats will look like on the field, Miller said the offense will be "different" from the flexbone offense utilized the past three years.

"The offense will be different," he said. "I'm a fan of not overthinking it. We'll get the ball to our athletes in space and let them play football and make us look like we know what we're doing. Defensively, we'll probably have some variation of four-front where you can bring more guys into the box if you need to stop the run. You can have multiple safeties/linebackers or hybrid guys out in coverage if they're throwing the ball. But again, it's going to be simple so that they can play football. I think the worst thing we can do as coaches is make the kids think. Paralysis by analysis – if they're just standing there thinking about what to do, they're not actually playing football. So make it fun, make it simple and let the kids play football.

"This is still a game. We all put a lot of pressure on ourselves and we want to win and be successful but at the same time, when it comes down to it in the grand scheme of life, this is a game and if it's not fun, what are we doing?"

As offseason workouts continue into the summer, Miller's goal heading into fall practice is to build program numbers. Speed training takes place from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday at the middle/high school and football practice from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Monday and from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday. Readers can follow the football program at BWBobcatBall on Instagram and X (formerly known as Twitter).

"We're trying to build numbers and get people excited about football again," Miller said. "They've been successful before but for whatever reason, they haven't been very recently. I'm not focused on the past. I think people who focus on the past are depressed because they're always thinking about the past instead of the present. I'm focused on today and moving forward and trying to make us better."

BASKETBALL

MSU to host Duke at the Breslin Center in December

Courtesy of MSU ATHLETICS

EAST LANSING — Michigan State's men's basketball team will host Duke in a non-conference game at the Breslin Center on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Television and game time will be announced at a later date.

This will be the 20th all-time meeting between the Blue Devils and the Spartans, and the first meeting since Duke posted a 74-65 win over MSU on Nov. 14, 2023 in the Champions Classic in Indianapolis.

Michigan State's last win in the series was a 75-69 win at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Dec. 1, 2020 in the Champions Classic.

The game in December will be the third game all-time between the teams at the Breslin Center.

Michigan State finished the 2024-25 season with a 30-7 overall record, including a 17-3 mark in the Big Ten Conference, as the team won the regular season title for the 11th time under Head Coach Tom Izzo and was selected to the NCAA Tournament for the 27th-straight season. The Spartans advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament for the 11th time and finished the year ranked No. 7 in the Associated Press Top 25.

TRACK & FIELD

UM's Sutherland wins second 400m hurdles title to close NCAA Championships

Courtesy of MICHIGAN ATHLETICS

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

EUGENE, Ore. — Savannah Sutherland of the University of Michigan women's track and field team captured the 400-meter hurdles title in record-breaking fashion on Friday to end the NCAA Outdoor Championships at Oregon's Hayward Field.

The Wolverines tied for 26th, scoring 10 points.

Sutherland capped an impressive career at Michigan with her second national title in the event and her third straight top-two finish. The senior led the entire race, running a personal best of 52.46 seconds to finish 2.20 seconds faster than second-place finisher Akala Garrett of Texas.

The Borden, Saskatchewan, native set four records in the program record, NCAA record, NCAA Championship meet record and the Canadian national record. Sutherland is now just the second runner in NCAA history to break 53 seconds, with Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone setting the previous collegiate record of 52.75 in 2018.

Clare McNamara improved in the heptathlon standings after the first event of the day, jumping 5.29 meters (17 feet, 2.75 inches) in the long jump to move into 21st place (3,765 points) from 24th. McNamara finished in 20th place with 4,980 points after throwing for 20.36m (66-9.75) in the javelin throw and running 2:13.17 in the 800-meter run to come just 0.02 seconds shy of her personal best.

The Maize and Blue will look to international competition next, with select members of the team continuing their campaigns at respective senior level and U20 national championships.

FOOTBALL

WMU seeks nominations for 2025 Western Michigan Athletics Hall of Fame Class

Courtesy of WMU ATHLETICS

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

KALAMAZOO — The Western Michigan Athletics Fall of Fame Committee is seeking nominations for the upcoming 2025 WMU Athletics Hall of Fame Class.

This year's class will be inducted on Friday, Oct. 10 and recognized at WMU Football's game against Ball State at Saturday, Oct. 11.

"Over the past few seasons, we've been intentional about re-engaging our alumni and creating a Hall of Fame and Homecoming weekend that truly honors our proud traditions," said WMU Vice President and Director of Athletics Dan Bartholomae. "As we continue our commitment to fostering meaningful connections with former Broncos and celebrating those who laid the foundation for our success, this weekend remains one of the most special in our department. We're excited to once again call for nominations and look forward to honoring the extraordinary individuals who have made a lasting impact on Bronco Athletics."

To be eligible for induction into the Hall of Fame, nominees must meet the following criteria:

•A student-athlete becomes eligible for nomination to the Hall of Fame ten years after graduation or withdrawal from the University.

•An athlete must have earned at least two letters in one sport or one letter in two different sports and have had significant team, conference, or national honors and accomplishments.

•A member of the University staff must have served the University for a minimum of five years.

•An outstanding career as an athlete or staff member must be complemented by an exemplary career in the individual's profession or occupation, a record that reflects credit to the person and this University

Anyone may submit a nomination using the official nomination form. Nominations can be supported with letters of recommendation. The nomination deadline for the 2025 class is Friday, July 18.

All nominations are reviewed by the Hall of Fame selection committee for statistical and biographical verification and then discussed and put forth for a vote. Election into the Hall of Fame is by a unanimous vote by the selection committee.

Letters of Recommendation should be mailed to:

WMU Athletics Hall of Fame Committee

c/o Elaine Russell

Western Michigan University

Read Fieldhouse

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269-228-1216

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Services

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TODD BAILEY
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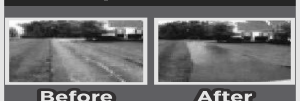

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Miscellaneous Services

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Massive 2-ring auction in Fenton, 06-26-25, 10a.m.! 1995 Sebring convertible, C20 Custom van, Willys Jeep, guns, ammo, hunting, fishing, tractor, tools, collectibles and much more! NarhiAuctions.com for directions. Questions? Call 810-266-6474.

Bid now! Online auctions at **Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com**. Pontoon boat, lift, 1997 Ski-Doo MXZ, archery/fishing gear, power tools, furniture, antiques, collectibles and much more. View auctions and bid online. Questions? Call Joe, 1-800-835-0495.

Midland Online Estate Auction. Bidding open. JD8210 Tractor, JD3420 Telehandler, JD320 Skidsteer, Snap-On Tools, show buggies, buckwagon, farm equipment, shop tools. Nice sale! Bid @ JohnPeckAuctions.com. Need an auction? Call John Peck 989-426-8061.

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- Lot & Land Clearing
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EXCELLENT CLEAN-UP
*60 & 80 FT. BUCKET TRUCK
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PLEASE CALL 574-848-5845.

Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Jefferson Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Synopsis June 12, 2025
Supervisor Hass called the June 12, 2025, meeting to order at 5:30 PM with board members present: Brunner, Bundle, Gillam, Hass, Mendenhall.

REGULAR MEETING BOARD ACTION
• May 8, 2025, meeting minutes were approved.
•Treasurer's Report was given.
•Payment of bills was authorized.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Brunner, Clerk

Dowagiac Daily News:
June 21, 2025
MEETING SYNOPSIS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Silver Creek Township
June 11, 2025
Board Meeting Summary

Supervisor Braman called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Roll Call: Present- Supervisor Braman, Clerk Honn, Treasurer Behnke, Trustee Stockwell; Absent- Trustee Barnes
Public comments were heard.
Approval of Agenda and Minutes carried.
Approval of Bills & Claims in the amount of $293,331.55 carried.
Reports were heard and received.
There will be a new credit card process soon, new phone system coming at the end of the month.
THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE APPROVED AND CARRIED:
Motion to pay the Zoning Administrator $50 per STR permit.
Motion to approve Budget Amendment.
Motion to approve Manhole Estimate.
Motion to approve Magician Lake fireworks permit.
Motion to approve Indian Lake fireworks permit.
Motion to approve budgets for special Funds.
Motion to approve the account creation requests.
Motion to waive interest and penalty for parcel payment.
Resolution 25-13 rescinding 20-04.

Reminder- Golf Carts are not permitted on the roadways.
Landfill Passes are available for June.
Short Term Rental registrations were due by June 1, 2025; those unregistered are in violation and will be cited.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:23pm.

Dowagiac Daily News:
Jun. 21, 2025
SUMMARY 6.11.25

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on July 9, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor: Paul D. Rogers, Jr., an unmarried man Original Mortgagee: United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture. Date of mortgage: June 22, 1998, Recorded on June 23, 1998, Book 00666, on Page 0877. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Two and 98/100 Dollars ($60,562.98) Mortgaged premises: Located in City of Dowagiac, Cass County and described as: LOT NUMBER TWELVE (12) IN MARY E. WHITNEY'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF. Commonly known as 405 West Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case

Legal Notices

the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 24-031174
(06-07)(06-28)

Dowagiac Daily News:
June 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025
1562956 ROGERS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on July 9, 2025 . The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagors: Donald Ottinger and Drinda Ottinger, a husband and wife Original Mortgagee: United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration, United States Department of Agriculture Date of mortgage: May 3, 1994 Recorded on August 2, 1994 Book 576, on Page 249. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof Ninety-Three Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty-Two 55/100 Dollars ($93,982.55) Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Silver Creek, Cass County and described as: LOT NUMBER 50, RAINBOW PARK, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1-H OF PLATS. Commonly known as 30450 M 152 DOWAGIAC, MI 49047 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 24-033965
(06-07)(06-28)

Dowagiac Daily News:
June 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025
1562959 OTTINGER

Raise your hand if you want your business to make LESS money next year.

We didn't think you would. Do you need to successfully market on a tight budget? Leader Publications Classified Marketplace has customizable programs available to fit any budget.

DON'T WAIT!
Call TODAY
269-591-6105

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on July 9, 2025 . The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Danielle M. Lott and Neil A. Keller, a single woman and a single man Original Mortgagee: United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture Date of mortgage: November 19, 2007 Recorded on November 21, 2007, Book 968, on Page 2526. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Twenty and 08/100 Dollars ($125,320.08) Mortgaged premises: Located in the City of Dowagiac, Cass County and described as: THE SOUTH 100 FEET OF THE FOLLOWING PIECE OF LAND COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF WAYNE STREET, NORTH 89 DEGREES 41' WEST 132 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 275 IN PATRICK HAMILTON'S 4TH ADDITION TO THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 3' EAST, 198 FEET ALONG WEST LINE OF LOT NUMBER 276; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 41' EAST 137.48 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF LOTS 275 & 276 ENCOMPASSING A JOG IN THE WEST LINE OF CROSS STREET; THENCE SOUTH 121.1 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 36' WEST 149.0 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF GREEN STREET; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF GREEN STREET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF WAYNE STREET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 41' EAST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF WAYNE STREET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 512 GREEN STREET DOWAGIAC, MI 49047 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 24-033963
(06-07)(06-28)

Dowagiac Daily News:
June 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2025
1562960 LOTT

Put your ad here
call 269-591-6105.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on July 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Regina E. Wolverton, married woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns Date of mortgage: October 11, 2023 Recorded on October 12, 2023, Liber 1238, on Page 817, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Union Home Mortgage Corp. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Five and 32/100 Dollars ($151,755.32) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot 288, Patrick Hamilton`s Fourth Addition to the City of Dowagiac, according to the recorded plat thereof. Commonly known as 210 Cross St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Union Home Mortgage Corp. Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1564118
(06-14)(07-05)

Dowagiac Daily News:
Jun. 14, 21, 28 and Jul. 5, 2025
1564118 WOLVERTON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on July 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Richard Erick Waldhouse and Anita J Waldhouse, tenants by the entirety
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): RUOFF MORTGAGE COMPANY, INC.
Date of Mortgage: June 22, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 26, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $236,030.92
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Milton, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 6, Ironwood Heights, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber H of plats, Page 391, Cass County Records
Common street address (if any): 69682 Ironwood Dr, Niles, MI 49120-7408
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: June 14, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1563812
(06-14)(07-05)

Dowagiac Daily News: June 14, 21, 28 and July 5, 2025
1563812 WALDHOUSE

LEGAL NOTICE

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Cass COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-149-DE**

Court address 60296 M-62 Cassopolis, MI 49031
Court telephone no. 269.445.4454

Estate of Renee Lynn Crandall
Date of Birth: 02.14.1969

TO ALL CREDITORS: ** NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Renee Lynn Crandall, died 04.22.2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Daniel Crandall, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62 Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
06.12.2025

Daniel Crandall
316 Oak
Dowagiac, MI 49047
269.312.1298

Nicholas R. Hogue P81291
107 Pennsylvania Ave
Dowagiac, MI 49047
269.782.9895

Dowagiac Daily News:
Jun. 21, 2025
2025-149-DE

LEGAL NOTICE

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
43rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Cass JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY PROBATE
ORDER FOR SERVICE
BY PUBLICATION/POSTING
AND NOTICE OF ACTION
CASE NO. 25-000217-CH**

Court address 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031
Court telephone no. (269)445-4412

CITY OF DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN, Kevin Anderson, Resident Agent
Marcellus M. Lebbin, Esq., (P78610J, atty. for Plaintiff
140 S. Front Street
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047
(269) 220-0194
lebbin@gmail.com
v John Doe or Jane Doe

TO: JOHN DOE OR JANE DOE

IT IS ORDERED:
1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to QUIET TITLE on real property located within the City of Dowagiac which is more particularly described in the Complaint to Quiet Title filed 4/28/25. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before 35 days after the final publication has occurred. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.
2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in Dowagiac Daily News for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.
05/30/2025
/s/Carol Montavon Bealor
Judge Honorable Carol Montavon Bealor, P57068, Signed 05/30/2025

Dowagiac Daily News:
Jun. 14, 21 and 28, 2025
25-000217-CH

LEGAL NOTICE

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
43RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CASS COUNTY
PUBLICATION
AND NOTICE
OF FRIEND OF THE
COURT
ANNUAL STATUTORY
REVIEW**

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE RECORD OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT
Pursuant to Michigan law, the chief circuit judge annually reviews the performance record of the friend of the court. The review will be conducted on or about July 1, 2025.
This review is limited by law to the following criteria: whether the friend of the court is guilty of misconduct, neglect of statutory duty, or failure to carry out the written orders of the court relative to a statutory duty; whether the purposes of the Friend of the Court Act are being met; and whether the duties of the friend of the court are being carried out in a manner that reflects the needs of the community. Members of the public may submit written comments to the chief judge relating to these criteria. Send your written comments, with your name and address, to Hon. Carol M. Bealor 60296 M-62 Cassopolis, MI 49031

Dowagiac Daily News:
May 17, June 7 and 21, 2025
ANNUAL REVIEW

LEGAL NOTICE

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CASS
CREDITORS NOTICE
FILE NO. 2025-118-DE**

ESTATE OF Ronald John Kent, Deceased
Date of Birth: August 5, 1956

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including creditors and heirs of the deceased whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The Decedent, RONALD JOHN KENT, who lived at 31646 Wells Street, Dowagiac, Michigan, died March 6, 2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Holly Baker, named personal representative, and to the probate court at 60296 M-62, Suite 10, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031 within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.
June 14, 2025

Holly Baker
c/o Post Office Box 1310
Niles, Michigan 49120
c/o (269) 683-8300

Robert L. Landgraf, Jr. (P23000)
Post Office Box 1310
Niles, Michigan 49120-1310
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Dowagic Daily News:
June 21, 2025
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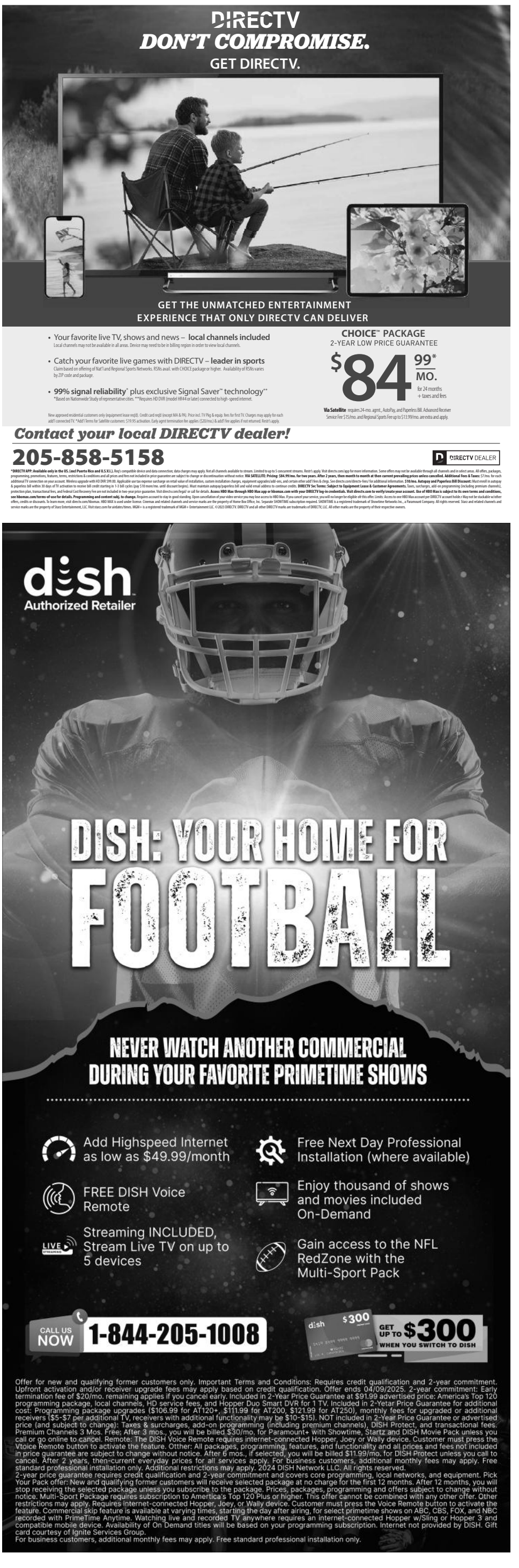
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Claim based on offering of Nat'l and Regional Sports Networks. RSNs avail. with CHOICE package or higher. Availability of RSNs varies by ZIP code and package.
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*Based on Nationwide Study of representative cities. **Requires HD DVR (model HR44 or later) connected to high-speed internet.
New approved residential customers only (equipment lease req'd). Credit card req'd (except MA & PA). Price incl. TV Pkg & equip. fees for first TV. Charges may apply for each add'l connected TV. *Add'l Terms for Satellite customers: $19.95 activation. Early agmt termination fee applies ($20/mo.) & add'l fee applies if not returned. Rent's apply.
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Via Satellite requires 24-mo. agmt., AutoPay, and Paperless Bill. Advanced Receiver Service Fee $15/mo. and Regional Sports Fee up to $13.99/mo. are extra and apply.
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*DIRECTV APP: Available only in the US. (excl Puerto Rico and U.S.V.I.). Req's compatible device and data connection; data charges may apply. Not all channels available to stream. Limited to up to 5 concurrent streams. Restr's apply. Visit directv.com/app for more information. Some offers may not be available through all channels and in select areas. All offers, packages, programming, promotions, features, terms, restrictions & conditions and all prices and fees not included in price guarantee are subject to change or discontinuation without notice. VIA SATELLITE: Pricing: $84.99/mo. for two years. After 2 years, then month to month at then current prevailing prices unless cancelled. Additional Fees & Taxes: $7/mo. for each additional TV connection on your account. Wireless upgrade with HD DVR $99.00. Applicable use tax expense surcharge on retail value of installation, custom installation charges, equipment upgrades/add-ons, and certain other add'l fees & chrgs. See directv.com/directv-fees/ for additional information. $10/mo. Autopay and Paperless Bill Discount: Must enroll in autopay & paperless bill within 30 days of TV activation to receive bill credit starting in 1-3 bill cycles (pay $10 more/mo. until discount begins). Must maintain autopay/paperless bill and valid email address to continue credits. DIRECTV Svc Terms: Subject to Equipment Lease & Customer Agreements. Taxes, surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), protection plan, transactional fees, and Federal Cost Recovery Fee are not included in two-year price guarantee. Visit directv.com/legal/ or call for details. Access HBO Max through HBO Max app or hbomax.com with your DIRECTV log-in credentials. Visit directv.com to verify/create your account. Use of HBO Max is subject to its own terms and conditions, see hbomax.com/terms-of-use for details. Programming and content subj. to change. Requires account to stay in good standing. Upon cancellation of your video service you may lose access to HBO Max. If you cancel your service, you will no longer be eligible sit-this-offer Limits: Access to one HBO Max account per DIRECTV account holder. May not be stackable w/other offers, credits or discounts. To learn more, visit directv.com/hbomax. HBO MAX is used under license. Cinemax and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. Separate SHOWTIME subscription required. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a Paramount Company. All rights reserved. Starz and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. Visit starz.com for airdates/times. MGM+ is a registered trademark of MGM + Entertainment LLC. ©2023 DIRECTV. DIRECTV and all other DIRECTV marks are trademarks of DIRECTV, LLC. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

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Selling Fast!
Buy Now
Before Prices go Higher

2010 NISSAN ROGUE AWD
Just in!! Fully serviced and ready to go with leather and a sunroof

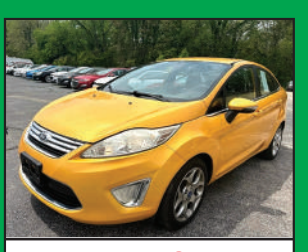
Only $5,900

2013 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA TDI PREMIUM
JLeather, roof, 45 miles per gallon!

Only $8,900

2019 NISSAN VERSA
Just in!! 35mpg, fully serviced and ready to go

Only $9,900



2013 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM
Power moonroof, leather in mint condition

Only $9,900

2012 TOYOTA PRIUS
Just in!! Gets over 50 miles per gallon!!

Only $10,900

2016 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD
All the toys!!

Only $12,900

2018 KIA RIO HATCHBACK
Just in!! Only 53,000 miles

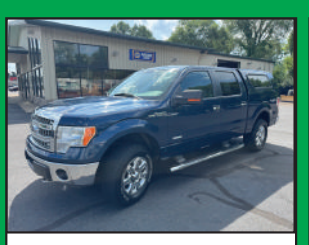
Only $12,900

PONTIAC SOLSTICE
Low miles, great shape…Nice car to drive to car shows

Only $13,900

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
Get you mini-van for the mini-mum

Only $13,900



2013 FORD F-150 CREW CAB XLT 4 X 4
Sur is nice fer a low price!

Only $16,900

2023 KEYSTONE HIDEOUT 26BH
Like New, solar panels… over $48,000 new

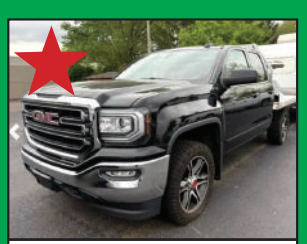
Only $19,900

1999 FORD F-250 CLUB CAB XLT
This is a one owner in mint condition with low miles and very sought after 7.3 diesel

Only $19,900

2018 CHEVY EQUINOX PREMIER AWD
Diesel. 45 miles per gallon

Only $21,900



2017 GMC SIERRA FLATBED 4 X 4
Perfect for lawn business

Only $24,900

2018 FORD TRANSIT HIGHROOF
Like new with low miles

Only $24,900

2023 HYUNDAI SONATA SEL
Like new with only 4,000 miles!

Only $24,900

2019 HYUNDAI KONA IRONMAN
Extremely rare. Only 1 of 500. Will be a collector's item

Only $24,900

2019 DODGE DURANGO SXT 4 X 4
Only 31,000 miles and like new

Only $24,900

2020 CHEVY COLORADO EX CAB 4 X 4
Showroom new, low miles

Only $26,900

2022 CHEVY COLORADO EX CAB 4 X 4
Just in!! Off lease, one owner with super low miles

Only $26,900

2003 CHEVY SSR
SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles

Only $29,900

2020 NISSAN ARMADA 4 X 4
Big ol rig!!

Only $29,900

2020 BUICK ENCLAVE AVENIR AWD
Every option, over $60k new. Half price!!

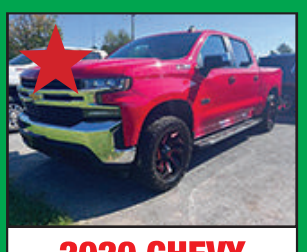
Only $29,900

2024 CHEVY EQUINOX RS AWD
Just in!! 8,000 miles with every option!!

Only $33,900

2016 FORD F-250 XLT 4 X 4
Crew cab, long box Diesel, Low miles

Only $34,900



2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!

Only $39,900

2022 TOYOTA TACOMA BEAST
OFF LEASE, one owner with EVERY option Only 13,000 miles

Only $43,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel, Super low miles Save thousands!

Only $45,900

2022 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW LTZ
Just in!! Off lease, one owner 19,000 miles. Over $75k new

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2023 RAM CREW DUALLY 4 X 4
Big Horn, rollin' coal

Only $57,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

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